

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, TGEN, PN
SUBJECT: SCIENCE ATTACHE PROGRAM AND GLOBAL ISSUES
REF: 1. STATE 118666, 2. STATE 142611
1. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, THE REFLECTION IN PANAMA OF
GLOBAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES OF INCREASING IMPORT-
ANCE TO THE US OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS WILL, FOR
THE MOST PART, BE CHARACTERISTIC OF MATTERS OF CONCERN
TO LDC'S AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE TWO AREAS TO
WHICH THE US MAY HAVE TO DEVOTE PRIORITY ATTENTION BECAUSE
OF THE UNIQUE IMPORTANCE OF PANAMA, NAMELY, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AS IT INVOLVES THE PRESERVATION OF THE
LANDS WITHIN THE GATUN LAKE/CHARGRES WATERSHED, AND NUCLEAR
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AS IT MAY BE INVOLVED IN CONSIDERATIONS
OF A POSSIBLE SEA LEVEL CANAL.
2. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATERSHED IS A SUBJECT OF
CRUCIAL CONCERN OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND CANAL AUTHORITIES
ALIKE, INCLUDING PANAMANIANA WHO WILL BE TAKING OVER
RESPONSIBILITY FOR CANAL OPERATIONS AND GOVERNMENT FUNC-
TIONS IN THE PRESENT CANAL ZONE. WHILE IT MAY BE
UNLIKELY THAT A SEA LEVEL CANAL IS EVER BUILT, THE
EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT NUCLEAR EXCAVATION STILL HAS
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ITS SUPPORTERS FOR REASONS OF ECONOMY REGARDLESS OF OTHER
DRAWBACKS.
3. ISSUES CALLING FOR US ATTENTION IN PANAMA AS WELL AS
OTHER LDC'S WILL LIKELY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

--ENERGY TECHNOLOGY - PANAMA'S ENERGY AGENCY, IRHE, HAS
BEEN INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY, INCLUD-

ING FOSSIL FUELS.

--OCEANS - PANAMA IS INTERESTED IN JURISDICTIONAL
AREAS FOR FISHING AND REGARDING SHIPPING MANAGEMENT AND
CONTROL.

--HEALTH AND NUTRITION - THESE ARE AREAS OF CURRENT
CONCERN TO THE GOP.

--POPULATION AND FOOD - PANAMA ALSO HAS WITH SOME
RECENT SUCCESS ENDEAVORED TO CONTROL ITS POPULATION RATES
AND HAS SHOWN A MILD INTEREST IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY, PRO-
DUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.

--NARCOTICS - NARCOTICS CONTROL IS AN AREA OF CURRENT
IMPORTANCE AND INCREASING CONCERN, AND WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR
TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WE HAVE
WITH THE GOP IN THIS AREA, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF PANAMA'S
STRATEGIC LOCATION ON MAJOR DRUG TRAFFIC ROUTES. JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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